

**NUCLEIC ACID VACCINE COMPOSITIONS HAVING A
MAMMALIAN CD80/CD86 GENE PROMOTER DRIVING ANTIGEN
EXPRESSION**

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Abstract of the Disclosure

Polynucleotides encoding at least one immunizing antigen whose expression is controlled by a promoter derived from a gene encoding a co-stimulatory molecule are provided. The polynucleotides may also encode adjuvants. Compositions comprising at least one immunizing agent and at least one cytokine that enhance dendritic cell stimulation and/or survival are also provided. Methods for eliciting an immune response against the immunizing agent are also provided. The method includes the steps of administering the polynucleotides and, optionally, co-administering an adjuvant.

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